



The Deputy Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 2, 2020

Dear Tribal Leaders and Other Tribal Entities Eligible for Office of Indian Energy Financial Assistance:

On October 30, 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (Office of Indian Energy) [released](#) a formalized process for Indian tribes and eligible tribal entities to request cost share reductions under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT 2005).

I directed the Office of Indian Energy to formalize this expedited cost share reduction determination process to help alleviate the financial impacts of COVID-19. This process will allow each tribe or tribal entity to address their unique circumstances, consistent with tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

Native nations' economies have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As some of the most vulnerable communities in the United States, this pandemic has limited their ability to meet the minimum cost share requirements of EPACT 2005. Our hope is that this formalized and expedited cost share reduction process will provide some relief to those Native communities currently struggling with the financial impacts of COVID-19.

The Office of Indian Energy stands ready to facilitate relief through this new process for the Native communities who are struggling as a result of the pandemic. For more information on the process of how eligible entities can request a reduction in cost share, see the Office of Indian Energy [website](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Menezes", is positioned above the printed name.

Mark W. Menezes